





Gal 4 D D c

T H E
COMPLEAT HORSEMAN;
OR, THE
ART OF RIDING MADE EASY:

Illustrated by
RULES DRAWN FROM NATURE,
AND
Confirmed by EXPERIENCE;

WITH
DIRECTIONS to the LADIES to sit grace-
fully, and ride with Safety.

Adorned with various ENGRAVINGS, finely
executed.

By CHARLES HUGHES,
Professor of HORSEMANSHIP, at his RIDING-
SCHOOL, near Black-friars Bridge.

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Riding-School.

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TO THEIR MAJESTIES.

SIRE and MADAM,

THE Honour I have received in the EXHIBITION of my FEATS of ACTIVITY on HORSEBACK before Your MAJESTIES, made me ambitious of wishing that this little Treatise on the ART of RIDING might appear under Your august PATRONAGE. If there be any Thing in it inconsistent with the manly Rules of this generous SCIENCE, the best HORSEMAN, the most accomplished GENTLEMAN, and the most Glorious MONARCH in the Universe, will discover and pardon the Errors of

Your MAJESTIES most obliged,

obedient and devoted

Subject and Servant,

CHARLES HUGHES.

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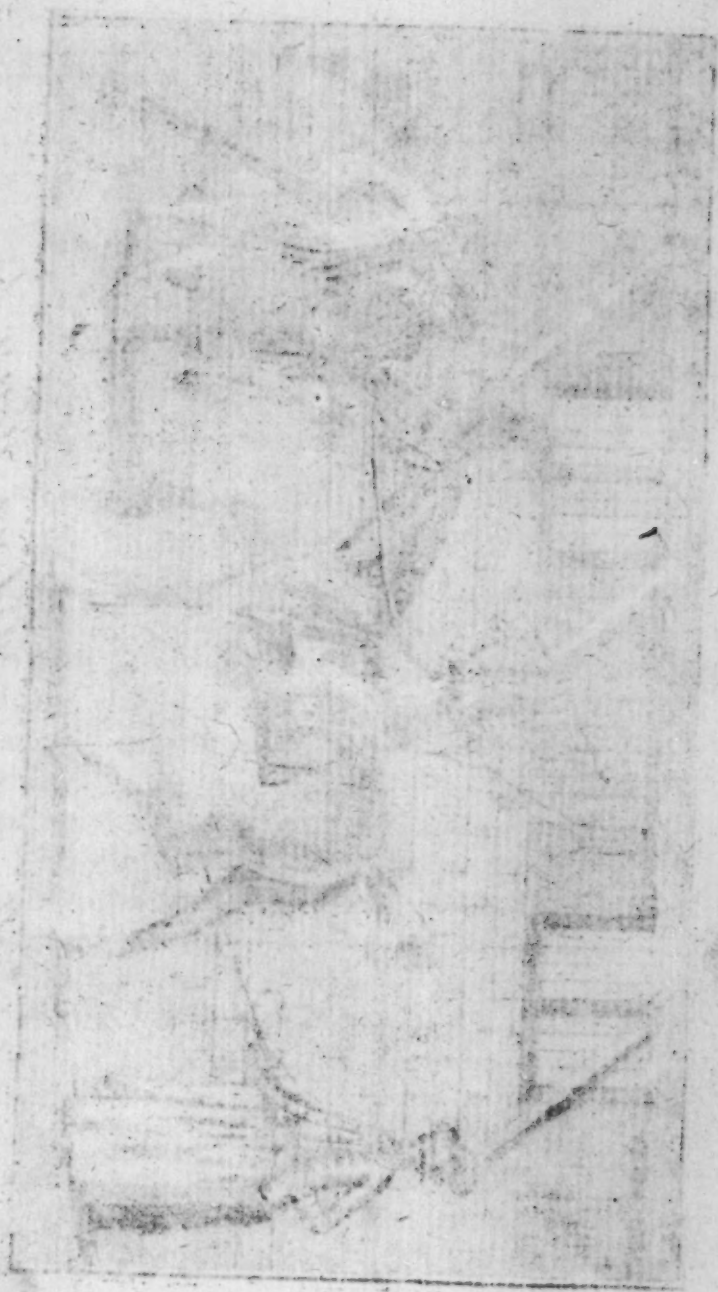
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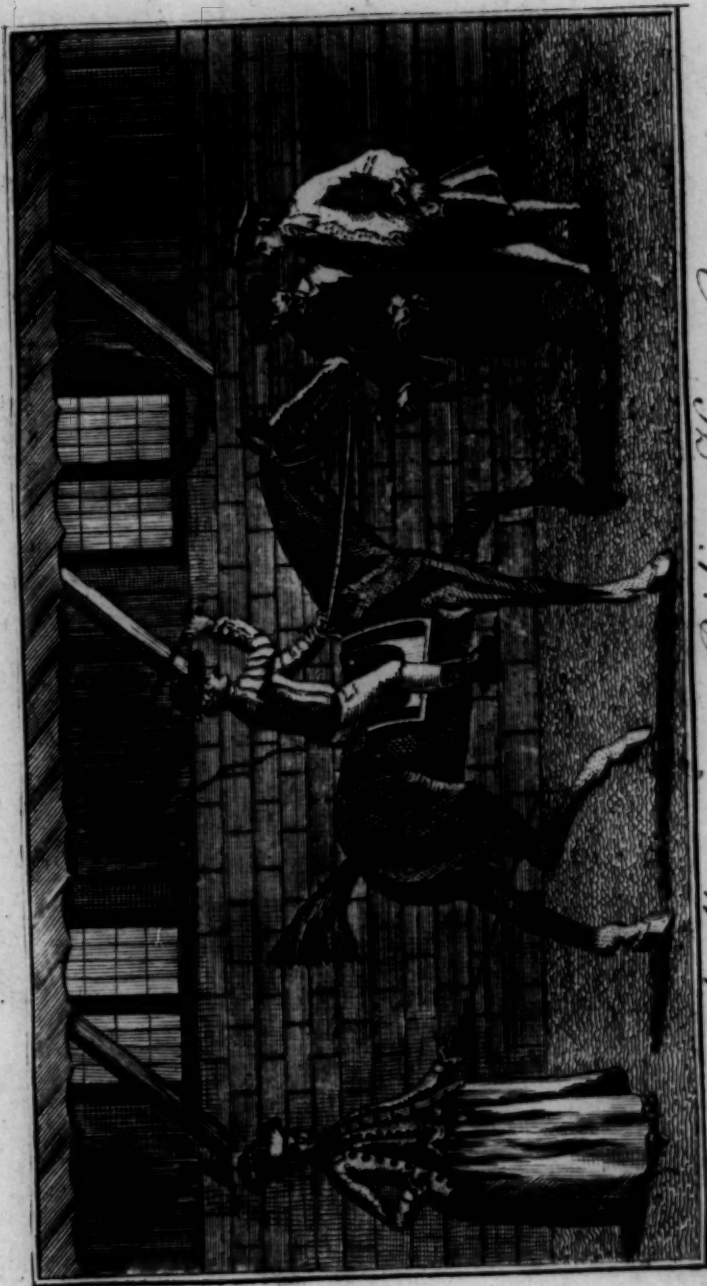
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The Marriage or Briding House.

T H E

COMPLEAT HORSEMAN.

THERE is not, among the whole Animal Creation, a beast of a more noble and generous nature than the horse ; nor any one so capable of contributing to the ease and pleasure of mankind. In the horse, we know not which to admire most, the beauty of his form, the docility of his temper, or the various powers with which he is endowed.

Having long made the management of horses my study, as it ever was my delight, I presume I may, without the imputation of vanity, lay down those rules to others which have been so useful in my own practice. I shall, therefore, without farther apology, submit my observations to the candor of the public, not doubting of pardon for any little errors, which the perpetual hurry of my business may have occasioned.

IT is generally allowed that good properties, though the gift of Nature, may be greatly improved by art, and perfected by practice. Nature, art, and practice, then, should unite in the same person, to form the accomplished horseman.—A person so qualified need not be told when and how to assist his horse; and yet if he has a jade to deal with he may find all his skill and labour lost. On the other hand he, who has a horse of a good disposition, if he has not judgment to manage him properly, will probably lose all the advantage and pleasure of the noblest animal in the world.

To avoid so disagreeable a circumstance, let the rider consider whether he has learnt the art of just management; and let the following rules be the test of his abilities.

1. Does he understand the true and perfect shape of horses?

2. Has he made himself master of the natural causes of their goodness and badness?

3. Is he acquainted with the reasons for his own practice? For by this means he will see what a hand-maid art is to nature; and discern that the actions of a perfect shaped horse are easy, quick, and ready, agreeable to the perfection of his nature; qualities naturally bred in and exerted by him

him, and not the result of correction ; and which a good rider will cherish with all possible mildness and gentleness. It is the unskilfulness of riders, that, for the most part, is the occasion of those complaints we frequently hear of restive and ungovernable horses, and their bad performances. It is the want of just taste that makes a bad horseman. Has a young sportsman got a horse he cannot manage, the method he takes to tame him is by hunting till he tires him. And yet, give the horse but a week's rest, and he will be as ungovernable as before. And it is a very just observation, that a man cannot manage a horse at all, if he cannot manage him when in full spirits.

Managed horses that are taught their motions only for parade, are not fit for the road or hunting. And therefore this part of horsemanship is quite useless to the generality. I shall therefore say no more of this part of the art here, but attend only to what may be generally useful.

There are persons, however, who urge that what is taught a horse in the manage will not spoil his paces ; and that by his discipline there, he is accustomed to have *no will of his own*, so that an indifferent rider can easily manage him.

I will

I will not deny but that this might be the case, if the masters would teach the art of riding on the *bunting* or *common saddle*; or, if a person unacquainted with the rules prescribed there, would initiate himself in the riding-house, and make himself master of some general principles, which he might occasionally apply to another manner of riding. In the mean time, my present business is, to give such rules, whereby an unskilful horseman may be instructed to ride more easily and safely than he otherwise could.

I will therefore begin with such matters as are principally required for the true performance of such actions, as art teaches for helps, corrections, or cherishings, whereby a horse is made tractable, agreeable, and useful.

The chief things used for helps, are corrections and cherishings, which may be reduced to these three heads, *viz*, the voice, the hand, and the leg.

If you wish to help your horse with your voice it must be in a mild and chearful tone; and in such like words as these, *so so, well done, good boy, poor fellow, &c.* but use no harsh or terrible words, which will rather frighten than sooth him; but speak to him with a mild and sweet voice, at the same time inclining or bending your body toward the horse.

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The management of a horse is likewise greatly promoted by the hand. By gently patting, clapping, or stroking him on the neck or shoulders, he is cherished. Also, the hand, by the stroke, jerk, or sound of the rod or wand, is sometimes very useful, and often helps by practising mildly and gently with it, but by striking him too hard, he is corrected to his displeasure. Further, by slackening the bridle in your hand, he is eased and cherished: and you correct and oppress him when you draw it hard.

I shall be more particular on the hand and bridle, as they are the principal things by which a horse is managed. If a rider would mount a horse properly, he is not to stand near the croup or hinder part of the horse, with the bridle at a great length in his right hand; for so, you are liable to be kicked before you are mounted, or the horse may go on, and play his gambols after you are mounted, before you can shorten the rein to prevent him. If you would mount with ease and safety, stand rather before the stirrup, than behind it. Then with your left hand, take the bridle short, and the mane together, help yourself into the stirrup with your right, so that in mounting your toe do not touch the horse. Your foot being in the stirrup, raise yourself, till
you

you face the side of the horse, and look directly across the saddle. Then with your right hand lay hold of the hinder part of the saddle, and with your left lift yourself into it. Thus having a sure hold with both hands, you may either dismount safely; or throw your leg over, and seat yourself, without danger of disturbing your horse.

On getting off the horse's back, hold the bridle and mane in the same manner as when you mounted; hold the pommel of the saddle with your right hand, to raise yourself; bring your right leg over the horse's back, let your right hand hold the hind-part of the saddle, and stand a moment on your stirrup, just as when you mounted. But beware that in dismounting you bend not your right knee, lest the horse should be touched by the spur.

You must always hold the bridle at a proper length. Let your position on the saddle be square, and the purchase of your bridle such as not to pull your shoulder. Let your body be in such an even posture, as if you held a rein in each hand. Grasp the reins with your hand, putting your little finger between them. Your hand must be perpendicular, the thumb uppermost, upon the bridle. Your wrist should bend a little outward, and in pulling the bridle, lift
your

your hand toward your breast. Hold your bridle in your hand at such a length, that, if the horse stumble, you can raise his head, and support it with your arms, by throwing your body backwards. If you give the rein too much length, the rising of the horse may occasion your falling backwards.

Allowing you know your horse well, and can safely trust him with a slackened rein, extend your arm, but not your shoulder, a little forward, but keep the rein at the usual length. Thus you will always have it in your power to give your horse a check, while you allow him his way.

If you ride with a curb, hook it on yourself: for, however quiet your horse may be, should the curb hurt him, he may endanger his rider's neck. When you fix the curb, turn the chain to the right, and the links will easily unfold. Let the chain be put on so loose as not to press upon his jaw, till the reins are drawn somewhat tight.

If the beast be gentle in temper, and has been taught to stand still when mounted, a groom to hold him is useless; however, suffer him not to finger the reins, but only to meddle with that part of the headstall which comes down the horse's cheek. The management of the reins belong only to the rider; and to hold a horse by the curb
when

when he is to stand still, is very wrong, because it puts him to needless pain.

I will now treat of the rider's leg, by which are meant the calves, the heels, the stirrup and the spur. As soon as the rider is mounted on a horse's back, let him sit quietly a few moments, lest any sudden motion should disorder or disturb him, till the rider is well settled in the saddle, with his nose directly opposite to the horse's foretop, betwixt his ears, his legs hanging strait down, neither thrusting forward the toe, nor lifting up the heel, but with the ball of his foot flat in the stirrup, as if he stood upon the ground, the stirrup leather rather short than long, winding his toes somewhat nearer to the horse's side, than the heel, holding the reins even with his crest, and with the point of the withers, a little above the mane, with his thighs and knees close to the saddle : sitting with his body erect, his ridge bone answering to the ridge bone of the horse ; so that the horse and rider may ever seem as one body in all motions ; and let the rider stroke and clap him gently with his hand, to divert him of all fearful apprehensions.

The disposition of the legs and thighs being essential to the keeping a graceful seat, it may be proper to describe their use somewhat

what distinctly. To sit on that part of the horse, which, as he springs, is the center of motion, is to have a *good seat*; and from which, it naturally follows, a weight could not easily be shaken. The true seat is certainly in that part of the saddle, into which the body naturally falls in case you had no stirrups; and this you can no otherwise preserve, than by a just poise of the body. Many riders hold the mistaken opinion, it may be done by the grasp of the thighs and knees.

We may form a judgment of the true seat, by pointing out the two extremes of a bad one; and the first of these extremes is, when a rider places himself so far back on the saddle, that his weight presses hard on the horse's loins; the other, when he throws his body so forward, that it hangs over the pommel of the saddle. The first is the common practise of grooms who affectedly ride with short stirrups; the latter, by timorous horsemen, who are frightened at the least flutter the horse makes. Every good rider has as *determined* a place for his thighs, even on the hunting saddle, as can be fixed for him by the bars of a demi-peak.

Nevertheless a good seat cannot be obtained unless the saddle sits well; and perhaps it is not very easy to prescribe a certain

rule in this case. However this may serve as a direction, that your saddle should press as near as possible on that part already described, as the point of union between the man and horse, yet so that the motion of the horse's shoulders be not obstructed. The middle or lowest part of it, is your proper seat. Sit erect, unconstrained, or as free as in your ordinary sitting. The true gentleman is always known by the ease of his action.

When you are troubled with a horse that is vicious, which stops short, or by rising or kicking endeavours to throw you off, you must not bend your body forward, as is commonly practised in such cases; because that motion throws the breech backward, and moves you from your fork or twist, and casts you out of your seat: but the right way to keep your seat, or to recover it when lost, is, to advance the lower part of your body, and to bend back your shoulders and upper part. In *flying* or *standing* leaps, a horseman's best security is, the bending back of the body. The rising of the horse does not affect the rider's seat; he is chiefly to guard against the lash of the animal's hind legs, which is best done by inclining the body backward. Observe farther, that your legs and thighs are not to be stiffened,
and

and as it were braced up, but your loins should be lax and pliable, like the coachman's on his box. By sitting thus loosely, every rough motion of the horse will be eluded; but the usual method of fixing the knees only serves, in great shocks, to assist the violence of the fall. To save yourself from being hurt in this case, you must yield a little to the horse's motion; by which means you will recover your seat, when an unskilful horseman would be dismounted.

Take likewise particular care not to stretch out your legs before you; because in so doing, you are pushed on the back of the saddle; nor must you gather up your knees, as if you was riding upon a pack, for then your thighs are thrown upwards. Let your legs hang perpendicular, and sit not on the thickest part of your thighs, but let them bear inwards, that your knees and toes may incline inwards likewise.

If you find your thighs are thrown upwards, open your knees, whereby your fork will come lower on the horse. Let the hollow or inner part of the thighs grasp the saddle, yet so as to keep your body in a right poise. This will be a means to keep your spurs from the horse's sides, and to bring your toes in properly. Let your heels hang strait down, for while your heels

are in this position, there is no danger of your falling. This will secure the seat on a full trot, or even on a swift gallop.

You must fix on the length of your stirrups by your seat. If a more precise exactness is required, let the length of your stirrups (of a hunting saddle) be so proportioned, that when you stand on them, there be the breadth of four fingers between the saddle and your body.

If a gentleman has not yet acquired the art of riding, let him procure it in a large circle, without stirrups. Let him keep the face directed to the outward part of the circle, yet so, as to have a view only of the ear, or side of the horse's head, which is on the outward part of the circle, and keep his shoulder on the other side very forward. This will teach him how to ballance his body, and maintain his seat without the help of stirrups; and perhaps may prevent a fall, if he should happen at any time to lose them, by being shaken out of his seat by the horse's starting suddenly.

There is a particular connection between the seat and the saddle, so that the first depends very much on the latter; wherefore it may be proper to observe, so that a high pommelled saddle is thought dangerous, the contrary extreme so far prevails, that
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the pommel rises scarce higher than the middle of the saddle. The saddle should be fitted to rest as near the back-bone of the horse as possible, without hurting him, for the nearer you sit to his back, the safer is your seat. From hence it is evident, that the pommel must rise enough to preserve the withers from being pressed. So that if a horse should happen to have his withers higher than common, a higher pommel is necessary. But to avoid this, you propose to make the saddle in a straighter line, that is, the whole length of it, from the withers to the crupper, almost even. But this will be attended with the same inconvenience; and you are seated too high above the horse's back, nor can you find a proper seat on the saddle. From the button at the side of the pommel, to the back part of the saddle, there should be no ridge; and for the ease of your thighs, that line should be a little concave.

The best description I can give of a saddle is, that it should be *perfectly* adapted to the shape of the horse.

If you are disposed to put your horse in motion, raise his head, and slightly touch him with your whip or wand; or else, press his sides with the calves of your legs, and still closer, if he does not mend his pace, till

the spur just touches him: after which, if he has any spirit, he will move with the least pressure of the leg. When you spur him, let it not be by a kick; but if you want to push him on briskly, keep your heels close to his sides; but when you find him compliable, spare him.

If your horse grows unruly, take the reins separately, one in each hand; put your arms forward, and hold him short; but pull him not hard with your arms low; for by lowering his head, he has the more liberty to throw out his heels: but if you raise his head as high as you can, this will prevent him from rising before or behind; nor, while his head is in this position, can he make either of these motions.

When your beast is headstrong, do not hang on his reins by a continued pull, but stop, and put him back often, just shaking the reins, and pulling him frequently, and by degrees you will bring him to his duty. Horses, when they go forward, are so used to bear on the bit, that they are discouraged by a refusal to let them do it.

A constant pulling likewise makes a loose necked horse throw up his head; in which situation, the front of his face appearing to the rider, he loses his command over him. When you observe this, let your hand fall, and

and slacken the bridle, and he will quickly drop his head into its proper place; and while he is falling it, give a gentle pull, and you will have his mouth again. By this method, a horse has been stopt, in the distance of a few yards, in the midst of his career, when he has run away, which all the rider's pulling could not effect. It has been often remarked that a horse goes faster, instead of stopping, when he feels himself pulled.

The rider who desires to have his horse make a stately appearance, must keep his head high, which will oblige him to raise his neck and crest; and play a little with the rein, which will move the bit in his mouth, to hinder him from pressing on it. There is no danger in raising his head too high; he will be too apt to bring it down of himself, and fatigue your arms with its weight, whenever he abates of his mettle. At such times as you feel him heavier than ordinary, stop him, and make him go back a few paces. Thus his hanging on the bridle will be cured by slow, but sure degrees.

Many are pleased with a round neck, and a head drawn in toward the chest; but these are not a horse's beauties. When a horse bridles in his head, provided he carries it aloft,

aloft, with his neck arching upwards, he is in his proper attitude; but when he bends his neck downwards, his figure is disagreeable, his fight and toes are too near together, he hangs on his bridle, nor will he obey command. 'Tis an undoubted fign that a horfe is fure-footed, if he preffes lightly on his bridle, and you can eafily guide him. If, on the other hand, he hangs down his head, and weighs you down on his neck, with your arms bearing on his fore legs (called, *being on his foulders*) he will be liable to ftumble, from the circumftance of ftriking his toes on the ground.

If your beaft hangs heavy on the bit, tie him for an hour or two, once a day, with his tail to the manger, and by a rein on each poft of the ftall, tied to each ring of the fnafile, let his head be lifted as high as you can, and let him remain in that pofture, which will foon effect a cure.

Horfekeepers and grooms agree, that the head fhould yield to the reins, and the neck form an arch, but they take no care to make it arch upwards. They fay, that attempting to raife a horfe's head, makes him push out his nofe, that his head is too high already; but they forget that it is not the diftance from his nofe, but from the top of his head to the ground, which fhould be
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the proper measure of the height or lowness of his head.

The neck is raised, and the head brought in, by the lifting up of the head; for, even while the bridle is in a strait line from the hand to the bit, it is easy to draw in, or thrust out the horse's nose, just as the neck is raised or depressed. Horsekeepers commonly use a contrary practice, and break their colts with their heads cavedoned very low, their necks stiff, without allowing them the least freedom or suppleness. When the breaker has finished his operations, and taken off their caparisons, they are mounted for the road, when enjoying more food and rest, and having not been properly taught in the manage, they frequently plunge, which renders it necessary to break them a second time. And as few gentlemen know how to manage their horses, they are committed to the care of their grooms, from whom, it is highly probable, they will learn many bad habits. Thus, by a wrong management at first, the owner is often deprived of the pleasure and service he expected from his horse's good qualities and beauty.

Allowing, however, that your horse carries his head, or his nose, too high, yet by moving his shoulders lightly, and going safely,

safely, he makes you some amends. Observe attentively the cause of this fault. The necks of some horses are set so low on their shoulders, that they can have no other motion, but to bend first down, and then upwards, like a stag's. Some have their necks too short. A head set on such a neck has not the liberty to bend inwards, so as to form an arch, because the neck-bones are too short to be flexible; and yet the number of vertebræ, or bones, in the long and short necked horses is the same. In some, again, you will find the jaw so thick, that it adheres to the neck, whereby it becomes impossible for the head to bend. In others, the under line from the jaw to the breast is so very short, that the neck has not room to rise.

Although these faults are not to be entirely rectified, still something may be gained by a nice hand with an easy bit; but no use must be made of a curb, martingale, or other compulsive method; for none of these will force a horse to carry his head or neck in any position which nature has made uneasy to him.

Light mouthed horses must be treated in the same manner as those which have loose necks; to which may be added this caution, namely, carefully to examine whether the
saddle

saddle girth be so fixed as not to pinch him, or that the bit, by being placed too high in the mouth does not hurt his lip; for either of these causes will make his head unsteady, and the beast will be apt to fret.

Many persons, to shew their own skill, or the spirit of the horse, are constantly pulling at the bridle. For this reason horses are generally taught to hold their heads low, and pull so strongly, as to raise the rider from his saddle, and to stand in his stirrup, tho' but in a gentle gallop. The impropriety of which we may be convinced of from ocular evidence, when we see a horse that gallops in a different manner. We cannot help saying, he canters excellently well, and find by experience the ease and pleasure of his motion. But an exception will remain as to horses bred for the turf, where swiftness is the principal thing desired.

A rider should never correct his horse, but when gentle means and cherishing will not prevail; which every horse of a good temper will yield to, if he be made sensible, what, how, and when to do that which is required of him. But the horse that will not be moved by gentle means is undoubtedly of a bad nature. But if it should happen that correction becomes necessary, correct him moderately at the instant he errs.

errs. But the contrary practise we are all witnesses to, when we behold the common horse-breakers and ignorant riders to minister the most horrible and violent corrections, when the beholder cannot so much as see a cause, nor the corrector himself give a tolerable reason for his inhuman severity. So that it is evident, that when a horse has been taught, and yet deviates from his discipline, he should be punished at the very instant he commits the error, but never correct him for ignorance.

It is observed that dealers are constantly pulling at their horses, laying their spurs to their sides, and continually checking them, not by way of correction for any fault or error they have committed, but to make them bound and champ the bit, while the rage they are in is boasted of as an instance of their spirit. The manner of their riding with their arms spread, and low on the shoulders of the horse, makes them stretch their necks, and gives a better appearance to their forehands. By this means they also cover a thick jaw, which, otherwise, would not yield to the bit; and likewise hide the ewe neck. If, indeed, your horse is unsteady to the bit, has naturally a heavy head, or obstinately carries his nose in the air, you must

must do your best with him, and find his mouth as well as you can.

Whipping of horses because they start, serves only to increase the fault. How is it possible he should know that it is intended as a punishment? In the riding-house, indeed, a horse is taught to rise up before, to spring and lash out his hind legs, by whipping him when tied between two posts, allowing his head a little liberty. If he was sensible that this was a punishment for his acting in that manner, that method would by no means teach him to do it. By the same method he is taught to spring and fly when frightened. There are few horses but would pass quietly by an object they were beginning to fly from, if their riders would throw the reins on their horses necks, instead of snatching the bridle short in the hand.

When a horse starts at any thing on one side of him, most riders will turn him out of the road, and force him up to the thing he starts at. If this does not rid him of his fear and make him readily comply, in passing the object, he makes a great circle with his crop out of the road; instead of which he should be taught to keep strait forward, and not regard side objects.

When he starts at any thing on the left, hold his head high, and keep it strait forward

ward in the road, pulling it away from the thing he starts at, at the same time pressing your leg close to his flank. He will then go strait forward on the road: and if you turn his head a little more, his croup may be forced up to the object that frightened him. Never quarrel with your horse if you can help it. If he is apt to start, occasions enough will offer to teach him obedience. If the thing lies directly in his way which he starts at, force him to pass it; but do not quarrel with him for trifles, if he is not accustomed to starting.

Notwithstanding these directions for passing an object may take place in the cases above-mentioned, yet perhaps it may not be so well adapted to a managed horse, which has been accustomed to obey the leg. Yet even in this case, if the horse is really afraid, and not restive, unless you would familiarize him to the object of his displeasure, it will be proper to turn his head aside.

It is too general an opinion, that it is necessary to force a horse to go up instantly to the thing he is afraid of, and how unwilling and restive soever he may be, he shall not be suffered to prevail against his rider: but this is carrying the matter a little too far. A horse that has not been used to the sound of a drum, discovers his fear when he hears it. The best method to conquer this fear
is,

is, to beat a drum near him when he is feeding. By a frequent repetition of this noise, it becomes familiar to him, nay, is pleasant, and he takes it as a forerunner of his meat: whereas, had he been whipped or spurred up to it, it is very probable he would have started at it ever after. May it not be as reasonable to suppose, that a horse may be as successfully cured of starting at other things by gentle usage; and that his fear would be more easily conquered, by permitting him to go a little from, and avoid an object, which at first sight terrifies him, till, by a frequent sight of it, it is familiarized to him, and he is convinced that it will do him no hurt? This seems a much better way than to punish him, fall in a passion, and at last perhaps be obliged to submit to his will. And should he ever meet with the same, or a similar object again, you will surely encounter the same difficulties.

People in general think that a horse stands in fear of nothing so much as his rider: but this is not universally true. May it not happen that he is terrified with the dread of instant destruction? of being overwhelmed, drowned, or of falling down some horrible precipice? If so, can we be surprised, that the sight of a loaded waggon should make him shudder, and unwilling to pass it? May

he not apprehend, that what seems to hang over his head, will fall upon him? To convince him, therefore, that there is room for him to pass, observe this rule: turn his head a little from the waggon, and press your leg hard against that side which is farthest from the carriage.

Is it not reasonable to imagine, that if a horse is forced towards a carriage which he has started at, he will think he is obliged to attack or run against it? Can it be imagined that the rider's spurring him on with his face directly to it, he should understand as a sign to pass it? We all know how apprehensive a horse is of the approach of the least danger to his face and eyes, insomuch that he jerks back his head from the hand that offers to touch him in that part, tho' it be only to caress and make much of him. Nor can he be compelled by any means (if he can avoid it) to go face to face even to another horse. Neither the clapping a horse's neck to encourage him, nor the whipping him for starting, will produce any good effect. All that need be done in this case is, to make him sensible by some tone or expression of your voice, to which he has been accustomed, that you dislike his action. For you may depend upon it, that if a horse once foils his rider, he will always prove stubborn

stubborn and disobedient ; and therefore the gentlest methods will be found to be the best.

Yet though I cannot allow the compelling a horse up to a carriage he starts at, yet if you should meet with one at a narrow part of the road, which you think will frighten him, after you have made him sensible he is to pass, do not flinch from your purpose, but resolutely push him on ; especially if part of the carriage is already passed you ; for if he has been used to back and turn round, when frightened, you may assure yourself he will not do it if he perceives your hand slacken, or feels not your legs pressing him ; and this at a point of time, when both you and the horse are in the greatest danger, that is, when the wheels of the carriage may take him as he turns. Be sure at this time not to check him by touching the reins of the curb.

There is no kind of bit equal to the snaffle, nor any that should be more sparingly used than the curb. The most proper snaffle is that which is thick and full in the mouth, at least let the ends, to which the reins are fastened, be so. Those that are made small and long cut the horse's mouth, and falling back on the bars of the jaw, give him great uneasiness.

I do not propose to lay down exact rules for the management of the curb ; suffice it only to observe, that the greatest caution is required in the use of it. It is the gentle turn of the wrist you must apply to it, not the strength of the arm.

If a horse cannot perform any thing readily, never put on a curb to compel him to it. A snaffle will give you power enough over his head to turn it any way ; but as a curb acts only in a strait line, you can only use it in the same direction. By a curb you may turn a horse out of one track into another, but it is because he takes it only as a *signal*. If you put on his curb when he is to draw a chaise, in which he is obliged to take a larger compass in turning, the necessity of which he does not apprehend, you will probably find him *reslive* ; but use the snaffle only, or fasten the rein to that part of the bit which does not curb him, and you will find him pliable to your pull, and be soon sensible of the duty required of him. Such is the right treatment of a horse of spirit, and a good mouth. But if he has neither of these, treat him as you like—it is impossible to give directions.

In taking a journey, you are not to regard the fine carriage of your horse, so much as the encouragement you ought to give him, and to employ

employ all your thoughts how to keep him in a good humour. That both yourself and horse may proceed with the greatest ease and pleasure, keep his head raised; but if you find he flags, you may suffer him to bear a little more on the bit, than you would do in an airing. If your horse falls lame, is tender footed, or tired, you will soon be sensible of it by his hanging on the bridle, which is the natural consequence of his ailment. Your chief reliance, therefore, for the performance of his journey with speed and alacrity, will depend on his mouth, which you will find in good order as long as his strength lasts; and likewise on the goodness of his feet; which, that they may be always in good order, watch the farrier very carefully.

Whenever he shoes your horse, let him not hollow his feet, but pare them quite flat, and chiefly at the toe. The farrier, to make his work look round and neat, gives the finishing stroke at the end of the horn of the hoof, above the toe. Now as this is the most useful part of the hoof, nothing can be taken from it without weakening it in the most essential part. Suffer him not to pare the heel or frog, except it be to take off what is ragged and broken; and even that

that you had better do with a knife, than leave it to an ignorant farrier.

As corns are occasioned by too great a pressure ; horses would not be so subject to them if the above method was practised, since the hoof in that case would escape the pressure it is liable to in the usual manner of shoeing. This is likewise a defence against pointed nails, which can never pierce the flesh of the foot, unless the frog loses its natural state by being pared away. This method is likewise useful in another respect; it keeps open the two divisions of the heel, and preserves them in their natural position, abroad and asunder. But the common practice of farriers is the direct contrary, who pare the frog extremely thin, in order, as they term it, to open the heel ; but by this means they defeat the very thing they aim at. But this is not the only mistake they make in shoeing a horse : for they drive their nails backward on the heel, which is the soft and most sensible part of the hoof ; but knock in none at the toe, where they would be better borne by the hard and stiff substance.

There are but few, except stone-horses, that have high heels : but when this is the case with others, it is necessary to pare the whole hoof flat, but not to meddle with the
frog

frog. When a horse has so low a heel, that the fleshy part of it comes too near the ground, he must be pared only at the toe. If his pasterns are short, so must be his shoe; because, in this case, a long shoe will throw his heels further back: so as to obstruct the pliability of his pasterns, and thereby put him in pain; which, for many reasons, should be carefully avoided. A short shoe may indeed sometimes occasion little accidental lamenesses; but when the shoe is long, and the nails drove far back on the heels, the consequence will be fatal, the heels ruined, and the horse spoiled. Experience makes it evident, that low-heeled horses go best after they have been long shod, that is, when the foot is grown longer, and the shoe being brought nearer to the toe, must of course sit shorter.

I shall now mention some other particulars, a due attention to which, will make the practitioner to attain that skill in horsemanship, which is the ambition of the first personages in most civilized kingdoms.

Many gentlemen, tho' otherwise well skilled in horsemanship, have formed an idea, that they have no command of a horse but by his bridle; and that the only use of the spur is to make him go forward; but a little experience and observation will convince them

them, that a further use may be made of these implements to good advantage. If he is touched with your left spur, and at the same time he is not permitted to go on, he takes it as a sign to move sideways to the right. Your right spur may be applied in the same manner, which will produce the like effect on the left. After this, he will obey a touch of your leg, without using the spur, which he still retains a remembrance of. Thus, when a horse stands in a stall, if you strike him with your hand, he moves his croup to the other side. And you will find, by a continued practice, that his croup is as much guided by the leg, as his head is by the bridle; and he will never disobey the leg, unless he happens to be in a restive refractory humour. Thus you will acquire an easy command over him; by a touch of your leg he will move sideways, and if you clap both legs to him he will go strait forwards: nay, though he stands still, if he perceives your legs near him, he will be on the watch, and by the slightest pull of the bridle upwards, will raise his head, and give the spectators a very advantageous view of his forehead.

The proficients in the *manage* assert, that it is on the proper use of the rider's legs, and the guidance of the croup, that all the
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airs (as they term them) are taught. It is by these documents the trooper is instructed to make the passage, or side motion, to close or open the files, and to practise all the military evolutions. But though the trooper may receive the most advantage from this discipline, it may be useful to common riders, when a horse is apt to start or stumble. In the last case, if he feels your legs pressing on his flanks, and his head raised by the bridle, he will go light on his fore-legs, by which he will be aided and supported, which will prevent his stumbling, and if he actually stumbles, it will help him to regain his footing, if he is not precipitated beyond a possibility of recovery. Hence this assistance given to the horse by the rider's hand and legs is called *Aids*; for to hold up the weight of a heavy dull horse, by the strength of your arms, is as impossible, as to hawl him back when thrown off a precipice. A horse is supported by the hands and legs of the rider, in every action which is required of him. When a horse starts you may treat him in the same manner. When you perceive his sudden motion to one side, clap your leg close on the same side, and his spring is instantly stopped. And if you press him with both legs, he keeps strait on, without minding what he started at, following the direction

direction you give him, and will not fly back from any object he sees. By the same means in going down a hill you will keep his haunches under him ; relieve his uneasiness on the side of a bank ; direct him in avoiding the wheel of a cart or carriage, and to approach gracefully to the door of a coach, or go by the side of a horseman. If you have a pampered horse, that plays his tricks, curvets irregularly, writhes his body into all postures, tosses about his head from right to left, or alternately, press your leg to the opposite side, but not to let him go out of his track ; by which means he will be prevented from springing on his hind legs, on one side ; nor on the other, because his head is turned that way ; for it is certain, that a horse never starts or springs to that side on which his eyes are fixed. It is very improper to shake your legs against the sides of a horse, a custom which many riders use themselves to : if a horse has been taught, they are perpetually urging him on to violent action ; and if he has not been so taught, they render it impossible for him to learn any lessons of this kind. Besides, if your horse be of a hot nature, this constant rubbing of your legs against him, will make him fret excessively, which can be only remedied

medied by keeping the hands and legs still, and sitting perfectly quiet.

It may be learnt from these observations, that a horse becomes obedient to the hand and will of the rider rather by *slight* than *force*; and that something more is wanting to render a horse tractable, and easy to be governed, than what the horse-breaker has taught him.

When a colt is broken, the first lesson he learns, is, to *mouth* the bit, and then to *pull* at it; for if he does not press it, it is in vain to expect he should be guided by it. When he has been a little used to the pressure of the bit, he gradually finds his neck stronger than his rider's arms; of which, when he becomes sensible, he will make the greater opposition, and will be often capable of foiling his rider. The skilful breaker well knows, that now is the time to teach him that suppleness and pliancy, especially in his neck, on which will depend his future serviceableness and good behaviour; for *stiff-necked* and *disobedient*, we know are synonymous terms.

The horse's neck may be called his *helm*; as he is moved by the muscles of it.

We understand by the term *suppleness*, the ability and readiness of a horse to move every limb and part of his body, in a man-

ner agreeable to the signal given him by the hands and legs of the rider; as likewise instantly to perform any other motion, to bend his body, move and turn in a short compass, and to perform whatever else he has been taught.

But the skill of the *breaker* being necessary to the future serviceableness of the horse, it will be proper to give such rules and directions, as that any gentleman may be capable of judging, whether his man takes the right method to initiate his colt in a proper manner; and when he is wrong to set him right.

To loose time or money on a bad horse is ridiculous. To prevent which, I will describe such beasts. The club-headed, distorted in shape or make, with an ugly visage, gourdy-limbed, short and thick necked, of a low forehead, narrow and shallow breasted; turn all such to the dung-cart, cartmen, or plough, as unfit for the road, or genteel service. None of these are compounded of a true temperature of the elements, as every well-framed body should be; and therefore impossible to be reduced to the perfection of action, otherwise than by abuse and great force, which nature abhors; nor can such keep what they learn but for a short

short time, since their evil dispositions will perpetually render all your care abortive.

When a horse is become tractable by kind and familiar usage, put on a headstall, or a caneslane, over his nose, with a pair of strong reins, but so loose and easy for his nose, as may neither hurt, nor make him abate of his courage, or his quick and fresh feeling. Then in the gentlest manner set a saddle on his back, with an upright short pommel, so that the hand may not be hindered from its due and proper exercise. The bolsters of it should be broader in the top to inclose the thigh, and yet to bear so sloping that the knee be not pinched; nor the thigh withheld from the true resting place. The seat of the saddle should be of a reasonable length and largeness, the bolsters behind bearing forward, to inclose and support the thigh, to the bolsters in the forepart, the strapper of which must be broad and strong, and so must be the girth and buckles, which should be cross girded, so that the saddle may rest firm on his back; which will render the seat easy, sure, and certain. Let the off stirrup be almost half a hole shorter than the near.

When your horse is become in some degree gentle, yet as he was never under tutorage before, and is ignorant of what his

new master would have him to do, so that he may be said to be in great diffidence and perplexity; therefore, to free him from his fear and perturbation, I would have a staid horse saddled and rid before him, and then both to be brought to the block; but the old horse first, and then the colt. At the same time, let the rider use him with all possible kindness, stroking and soothing him by kind words, and clapping his neck.

Your reins must be of an equal length, and you must hold them with ease, neither too tight nor too loose, in your left hand.

Being once mounted, sit still and quietly for a while, lest the horse should be disturbed at any sudden motion. When you are settled in the saddle, observe that your nose be directly in a line with the horse's foretop, between his ears, with your legs strait down, neither thrusting down the toe, nor lifting up the heel, but with your foot so evenly in the stirrup, as if you stood on the ground. Let the stirrup leathers be rather short than long, winding your toes somewhat nearer to the horse's side, than the heel, holding the reins parrallel with his crest, even with the point of the withers, just above the mane. Let your thighs and knees be close to the saddle, and your feet resting on the stirrup in the due place. Let your body be erect
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and strait, and your ridge-bone answering to that of the horse; so that a kind of mechanical correspondence may appear between your body and that of the horse.

Thus much being done, draw the horse's head with your hand, in order to remove all fear and ill opinion of your riding. Then let him walk on some paces fair and softly, and stop again, making much of him; and pace him softly and quietly to the place where the rider intends to trace out a ring. All this the rider must do boldly and without fear. And as he must be thus used in going forward, so in pacing and treading out the ring he must be treated in the same manner.

Ground newly ploughed, with a deep mould, is the most proper for treading out the ring. Let the old horse enter betwixt two furrows, so far as the rider may have space and mould enough. Let the young horse follow close to him, because, having the old horse for his guide and example, he will be induced to go the more willingly. Then let the old horse (the colt following at his heels) pass on the right hand, athwart the furrows, and tread out twice together a round ring, containing in circuit about thirty paces; and being come a second time to the place where he began, let him tread

out the like ring on the left hand, and when he has gone twice about, let him begin again on the left hand, and so continue till he has gone four times successively about the left ring, and the right six times. This done, let him go fair and softly out of the furrow where he began, about thirty or forty paces, and there stand still, keeping his head and body right on the path. A person should attend to observe, and make remarks on his performance.

When this exercise is performed, let him walk gently back to the place from whence he set out. There let the rider alight, and make much of him, by cheering him with his voice, clapping his neck, and giving him with his hand a little grass, hay, or bread, to procure or win love. Let a horse go before and after him, for two days.

Having proceeded thus far with your colt, let him begin and lead himself, and tread and pace the ring in the same gentle manner, for the space of ten days, all the while keeping a temperate, steady, and fine hand upon the reins. with a sweet feeling stay. See that he carries his forehead just as rams do when they prepare to fight; whereby he will learn not only to rein well, but bear his head steady and light. And when he knows how to perform what is required of him, and

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is cherished for doing it, he will always be ready to do it freely. If the rider does but mind to keep his hand always steady, the horse will do his duty with wonderful pride and delight; but severe treatment will produce the contrary effect.

While you are pacing the ring, the rider must not carry an over-hard hand; but so temperately, that the feeling may be always fresh; otherwise, by pulling him too violently you will gall his nose; to avoid which, he will set his head and neck awry; whereas, if he stands in the furrow with his neck in a line with his body, the rider moves him gently forwards, and in that very motion turns him on the right hand, by drawing very softly the right rein with his right hand lower under the pommel of the saddle, whereto if he yield (as he certainly will having trod the same before) let the rider immediately make much of him, without either drawing or slackening the rein. At which time, for his so doing, as well for the ease of the rider as the horse, if necessary, let some skilful person come on the right side to his fore shoulder, and thrust him by little and little, and the rider likewise press him with the calf of his right leg, and the clack of his tongue, to aid and encourage him to go forward. If a horse be of the
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right stamp, he will soon learn to do it. However, if he should fail in the very motion of the turn, then let the rider draw the rein with his hand as before, whether it be to the right or left. All which must be executed with the gentlest dealing; so that the horse may hope for rest and quietness. By such kind treatment, the rider will generally find him ready to pay obedience to his master's wishes.

As I have already spoken of pacing a horse in a ring, it follows, that after the ten days are expired, the horse be taught to trot the ring. He must begin this practise in a slow gentle trot, in the same manner as he was at first taught to pace it; that is, increase his ring-turns by two and two every day, till he make ten turns for the left ring, and twelve for the right, which will augment his swiftness: but of this he should be restrained till he becomes more perfect, and then he will do it with all the grace and pride imaginable; for to bring to perfection, is the very quintessence of art. While he is learning to trot, he must not be rid with a wand, or wear a bit till he is perfect in that action, stops, and turns well on both hands. He must by no means be suffered to gallop, till he can also advance well. By proceeding with him in this manner, he will
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be exact in his pace, and just in his trot, with a staid hand and neck.

Make it your particular care, when you begin to trot the ring, to move him thereunto, at first, with all the mildness and gentleness you can devise, and let every action be done upon a restrained, temperate and firm hand, with a sweet stay and a true rein; that is, that his nose be just under his forehead, neither jutting out, nor drawn in, but in the middle way between both, which is the just placing and setting of his head. This will give him a pleasant mouth, when he comes to wear the bit, in which the chief point of horsemanship consists; because this gives ease, grace, and decorum to all his actions. This may be easily accomplished, if the horse be of a perfect shape and good spirit. But if he makes resistance, is vicious, or not well broke in, then trot him swiftly, with a quick voice, whip, and spur; for the time of his learning to trot is the fittest opportunity to make him forget his toys, and mind his way. And if all this doth not cure him, put him into a gallop and spare him not. And if this fails, depend on it, he is not worth a moment's farther notice.

I shall now endeavour to instruct the rider how to make a perfect stop, after he has ended the number of his ring turns. He is then

then to trot his horse right out in the middle furrow betwixt the rings, till he comes to the place of stop. There he is to make a pretty long stay; observing, the while, to keep his horse's body right in the path; for if his body or any part of it, stand across it, do not correct him in a passion for it, but let a footman put him right in the path again, as before mentioned, by thrusting in that part that standeth out of order, or cause the horse to go further in the same path, and stop him, holding the rein straiter on that side, to which he forces his head; after that, pull the other rein, which will force him to go right on. If he obeys your hand, be sure to cherish him. After this you should make a practice of stopping on uneven or steepy ground. If you should be disposed to teach your horse the art of going backwards, you must keep a firm and staid hand upon him, yet with some liberty; then gently striking him on the neck with your rod, in that instant say, *back, back*. But if he refuses to obey, let a person on foot gently strike him on the knees with his rod, and pull him back at the same instant, encouraging him, if he readily obeys.

Directions having been given for the rider to rule his beast with the use of the wand,
bit,

bit, or spur, the next thing is, to instruct him how to manage all three, together, with the use of the hand upon the bit, this being one of the chief, and indeed the principal point of horsemanship. First then, let him take the wand very warily, that so his horse be not frightened at the sudden sight of it; and to inure the horse to it, let him toy and scratch him about the neck with the end of it; he must carry it in his right hand, with the point upright; and when he sees occasion to use it, let the point fall close to him. In the management of it, let him lay his hand upon his right thigh, with his wand across the horse's neck; and when he is just turning on the left, let the rider lift up his hand and rod, and hold the point strait forward on his right side against his eye; and as the turns are changed, so let him change his rod to the one side or the other. But if his horse will not turn to the side he directs him, let him strike him on the opposite side; and on which side soever the horse shews himself restive, let him carry his wand on the contrary side. When you would make him carry his forehead right, strike him gently on the shoulder, or fore-legs; and if you would have him lighter behind, strike him on the rump and haunches.

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I shall now proceed to the use of the bit, which is guided and directed only by the hand. Now, as the art of riding is grounded on the right use and government of the hand, under the direction of reason and judgment; so the horse, in all his movements and actions, ought to be guided by, and answer to the motion of the hand.

The chief and principal care of the rider should be that the first bit he puts in the horse's mouth, be easy and pleasant, and by no means to give him any disgust, yet so, that the gentleness of it cause him not to despise it, nor its hardness drive him to despair. The happy medium will be your best rule of proceeding.

If when your horse carries his head well, you press it with the bridle, you must presently ease the bridle-hand, and make much of him, for so readily shewing his obedience; and whenever he does his duty well and chearful, he ought never to be vexed, but to be soothed and encouraged, which kind of usage will engage his gratitude; for horses know how to be grateful.

Presuming that the rider is improved by what has been already written, I will not leave him till I have done all in my power to make him a complete master of his art: for there are many things yet remaining,
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with which he must be made acquainted before he becomes a perfect horseman.

The rider having been told in what order to keep his horse, and that in the management of his actions and motions, he must serve a due mediocrity, our next rule is, that he stay him temperately with an even hand, proportionably to the resistance he makes, without giving him any other liberty, but to strike him gently with his rod on the bowing of his neck, provoking him with a little touch of the spur on the side to which he most writhes his buttock; to the end he may go properly. But if he draws in one of his fore-feet, make much of him, and then stay a while, and by degrees he will understand your intent and meaning. If you want him to go back, he will do it lightly with both his fore legs, if he is touched on the neck with the rod, and hears the word *Back* spoke aloud to him; at the hearing of which, the sight of the rod, and drawing of the bridle, he will go back, to the riders desire. And whenever he deviates from the right and true way, treat him exactly in the same manner.

It may appear a work of difficulty to procure a continuance of perfection in any action, although it be common upon a stop, or standing still, to bring him into order;

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yet perhaps, on some motion, he will leave playing on the bit, and bear up his head especially on a full career. But this proceeds from the want of knowing how maintain and continue the hand just a firm with a sweet stay, so that he may take pleasure on the bit. Let us next consider the art of governing a horse, both when he is furious and quiet.

Let the rider carefully remark when the horse puts himself in any disorder, and stopping him, make him go backward, as you did before; for by this means he will be brought into right order again; then presently make much of him, and instantly move him forward. In the same manner he must be used in treading the ring; first, gently upon the pace, on the trot, and the gallop; which the rider must be extremely careful to see precisely done, otherwise the horse will gape, thrust his tongue upon, or over his bit to defend himself, or shoot out his head suddenly, pluck it in disdainfully, or shake it one way or other, to free himself from the pressure of the intemperate hand.

The rider should likewise be attentive to the true manner of drawing the bridle. When he is mounted on the saddle, let him draw the reins equal. If the horse refuses to obey

obey the bit, let the bit be slackened, and the rider hold the reins in his left hand, with the little and ring finger between, under the pommel of the saddle, as near the withers as possible, which he must not remove till he feels the horse stay upon the bit; and hold him there without further drawing, till he perceives his head stand in the true form. But if he does not, then let him yield a little his left hand again, and when he has stood a pretty while, let him bring his left hand to its former place again, where the horse made his first stay upon the bit; then let him draw the reins with his right hand somewhat more through his left, as before, but so little and softly as scarce to be perceived, (for so must all the motions of the hand be) then keep it steady and firm a pretty while; and if he yield, though ever so little, let him keep his hand still at one stay, without either slackening or drawing it. By this gentle usage the horse will feel the ease he has got by yielding to it; immediately upon which you must caress and make much of him. But if it so happen that the reins fall slack, the rider must not remove his left hand, as before, but draw them again into his right hand; to which, whenever he yield, make much of him; still continuing to solicit him, till his head be in

its due place. If, after all, he bear not light, let the rider strike him gently upon his knees, to make him go back, whereby he will bring in his head, and then will the bit move, and his hand find ease. But, at the same instant, let him be very careful to keep his hand so firm and steady, that he neither slacken nor draw it, to the end the horse may feel and retain the ease of his own motion of yielding, which he will not willingly lose, it being delightful to his nature; it gives him pleasure to stir the bit in his mouth, and will go backward with it. When the rider perceives he has conquered his refractory humour, by observing the same course of practice, he may preserve what he had gained, and even improve him.

I now proceed to give the initiating rider some further rules and directions, by the due observation of which, he may become a complete horseman.

1. When the rider is teaching his-horse any of the foregoing lessons, or any other, let his thoughts be engaged in that business only.

2. Let him not permit any one to ride him, while he is under his care, and till he is perfect in those lessons he has been teaching him; lest he should be confounded by the
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the diversity of teachers, and their different manner of teaching.

3. When the horse is brought to a just stay and position of his head, and an assurance of the bit, the rider's care will then be to maintain him therein.

4. When the rider finds him breaking order, let him stop him, and make him go back.

5. When he is in proper order, make much of him, and not stay long, but with a firm hand gently put him into his pace again.

6. If he continues in good order, cherish and encourage him, guiding his body with an easy and gentle motion of the calves of your legs; put him on to move more expeditiously, which, if he is of a generous spirit, he will do with alacrity; yet still, unless he brings in his head, keep a firm hand.

7. If you feel him heavy in hand upon the trot, stay him, and cause him to go back, which will reduce him to order again: then gently put him into his pace, and so to his trot, as before; which being well done, soothe and cherish him with your voice and hand. By which means the rider will so ingratiate himself with him, that he may guide him with a thread: then let him give him a little grass or hay out of his hand; tickle,

and scratch him, and speak to him in the most kind and loving words; this will make him, at his next exercise, do every thing readily, to his rider's wish; and within twenty days, or thereabouts, he will pace and trot in such order, that the rider need not blush to ride him before any company in the kingdom.

8. Be careful when you first trot your horse, to keep your true seat and firm hand, so that he lose not that excellent grace and form before prescribed. But forbear to gallop him before he is quite perfect in his swift trot: out of that trot put him into a swifter and quick gallop in the large ring, even to the stop: but in doing this, be cautious, that you do not hastily draw your hand to you, but by a little stay of your body, back and hand together, oblige him to retreat a step or two; there stay him, and permit him not to go forward; at the same instant make much of him; and then place your hand and body in their former position.

9. The truth of the rules above-recited have been verified by long experience. Let the rider therefore pursue his practice, and continue it. Let him pace his horse over some deep fallow as fast as he can for half an hour, but suffer him not to trot; let him keep his hand in a firm and temperate stay,

as before; and if he observe his head to be in due place, his carriage light and pleasant upon the bit, he may be assured he has gained the perfection of the hand, and the true use of it, for the breaking in and teaching his young horse. Upon the whole observe, that if he be of a perfect shape, his head will be in the due place, and fall naturally on the bit.

Presuming that I have laid down the proper directions for any gentlemen to break in a young horse, and the proper lessons for perfecting him in all his proper motions and exercises: I shall discourse a little of a horse that is already taught, and perfected in his actions. With such a horse an expert rider has small use of a rod, whip, or any other help; he has little other care, but to keep his true, just, and perfect seat, because his horse by the least token of the bridle or spur, will do all things with perfect concord and harmony.

The difference between an expert and an ignorant rider, may be discovered by the actions of a well-managed horse. Such a horse appears with all the beauty that an animal of his order is capable of, and shews himself, as well as the expert rider, with a noble grace and dignity, and ravishes the judicious spectator with delight and wonder.

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All which perfections are attained by good discipline, discreet management, and allowing time with moderation and temperance, which the Many have little regard to; who are quite careless whether their horse is in or out of order, and ride him with such extremity of whip and spur, and the poor horse is so cruelly tormented, that if he does not drop down under his burden, he is at least rendered incapable of performing any other service for a long while to come.

Having perfected your horse in his lessons; as well to trot swiftly, as to stop, and to go back; the next degree he takes, must be rightly to advance; which is done by lifting up his fore-feet just and even together, like a goat, somewhat above the ground, and to let them fall just and even, twice or thrice successively. If he does this truly and accurately, it will enable him to make a just and perfect manage, and a ready and true turn. The proper method to attain this is, to trot him gently forty or fifty feet in some plain way, then give him a stop, which he will perform exactly, because he has learnt it already. Let the rider always keep a steady and pleasant hand on the bridle, then instantly with a mild voice say, *Hup, hup*, striking him at the same moment on the shoulder, and also pressing his sides, with

with both calves of his legs together, but spur him not, if he will by any means advance without it. And you need not fear, but with a little labour and patient teaching he will attempt to do it twice or thrice together; if he do, let his rider at that instant make much of him; (although perhaps he did it but very indifferently) after which, let him pause a little, and take breath. Then trot him again in the same manner the like distance of ground, and as before, to use him gently again. But if he should not mend every time he is taught, he must still be solicited till he do better. And when he can make him advance perfectly on plain ground, then let him be taught gently on the side of a hill, to bring him to stop perfectly, and run sliding upon his buttocks or his hind legs, which is very handsome, beautiful and graceful for manage and turn; and therefore let him learn this before he is taught any other lesson, and then he will do it upon a soft trot, and afterwards upon a soft gallop, and not before, but never upon a swift gallop, till he be perfect both in turn and manage. If he advance too high, and not just and even, with a good grace as he ought, the fault is quickly found, and as easily remedied, by correcting him with an even stroke across his legs with the wand, which

which must be instantly conveyed out of his sight, with a sweet staid hand on the bridle.

Many horses are apt to turn more to one side than the other; (especially to the left than the right) yet if a horse is of a good nature and perfect shape, this fault may be rectified by a little good management.

If the rules above given should prove useful to any gentlemen to whom I have been, or may hereafter be obliged, in the course of my profession, I shall think myself amply rewarded for the trouble of compiling them.

DIRECTIONS

F O R

L A D I E S

T O

RIDE GRACEFULLY.

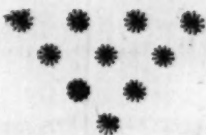
The Method of mounting.

A Person should stand before the head of the horse, holding with each hand the upper part of the cheek of the bridle. Then the Lady must lay her right hand on the near side of the pommel, and her left hand on the left shoulder of a gentleman, (or a servant) who will place both his hands together, the fingers and thumbs being interwoven with each other. This being done, let the lady put her left foot firm in the gentleman's hands; and giving a little spring, she will be vaulted into the saddle in a moment. When she is thus seated, let her

her rest the ball of her left foot firm in the stirrup; and, to prevent accidents, she should wear Italian shoes with very long quarters, and the heel of the shoe coming forward to the middle of the foot. Ladies shoes made in the common fashion are dangerous, because the foot rests in the hollow between the toes and the heel. Remember that the pommel of the saddle should be made very low, that the lady's knee may not be thrown too high; and the stirrup should hang low; both which circumstances will help to give her a graceful figure, and add greatly to those charms which nature has bestowed on her. When she is thus placed, let her take her whip in her right hand, near the head, with her thumb upon it, and the four fingers under it, holding it obliquely, so that the small end of it may be some inches above the middle of the horse's hind leg. The arm that supports the whip is always to hang straight; but with a kind of negligent ease; nothing looks more awkward than a lady's holding the whip with her arm crooked at the elbow. A lady should hold her bridle moderately slack, with her little finger under the rein, and the other three fingers passing between the rein, on the top of which her thumb must be placed. Being thus

thus seated, she will please to walk her horse off gently, and put him into his other paces at her pleasure.

The pommel of a lady's saddle should always be made with a turn-again screw, to take off in case the rain, wind, or sun is troublesome—when a lady may ride on the contrary side of the horse; which is the method pursued by the Duchesses of G—d—n and Gr——n, and several of the best horsewomen in England. When a lady has been used to riding, the more negligently she sits, the more gracefully, provided she sits safe.



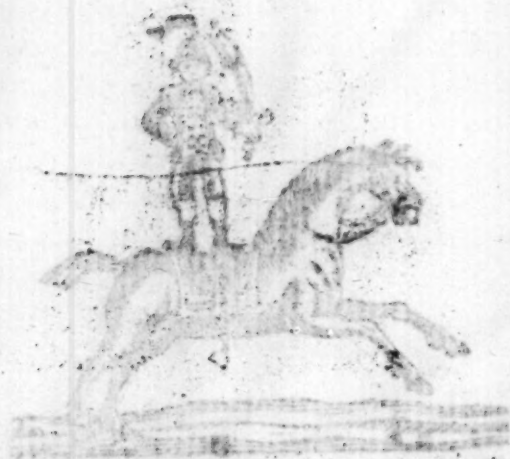
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off gently, and put him into his other paces
at her pleasure.

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always be made with a turn-up, so as to
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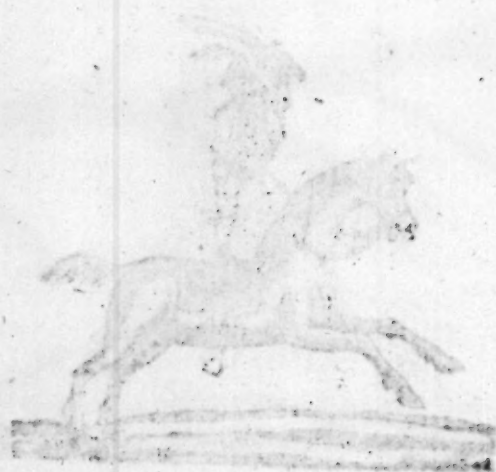
63
The following are some of the
many ATTITUDES by which
Mr. HUGHES and his As-
SISTANTS prove their amazing
DEXTERITY in HORSEMAN-
SHIP.



The following are some of the
 many ATTITUDES by which
 Mr. HENRI and his A-
 STANT, JOHN BRIDGES
 OF THE HORSEMAN-
 SHIP.

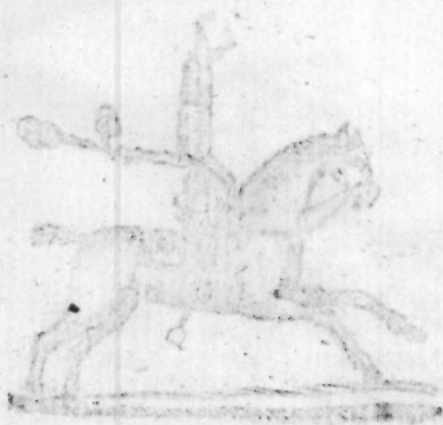




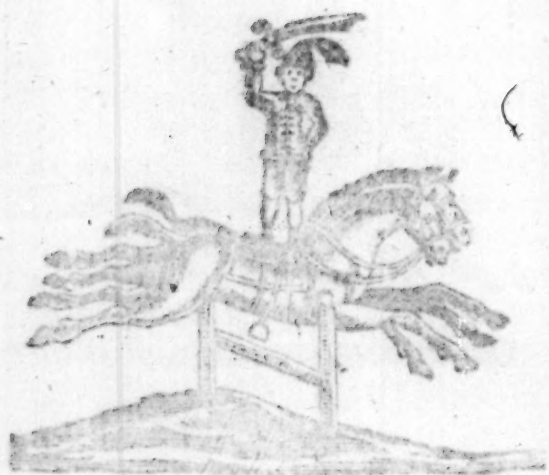
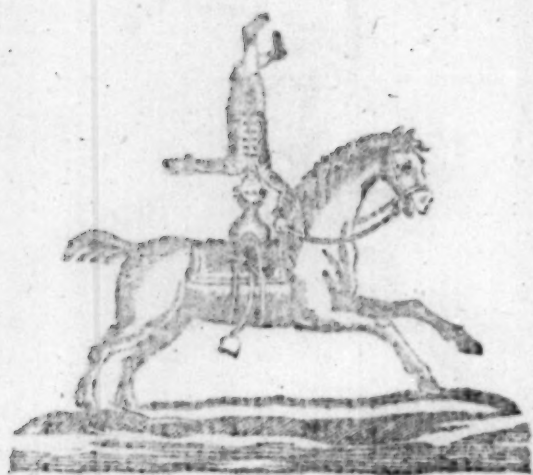


九 五



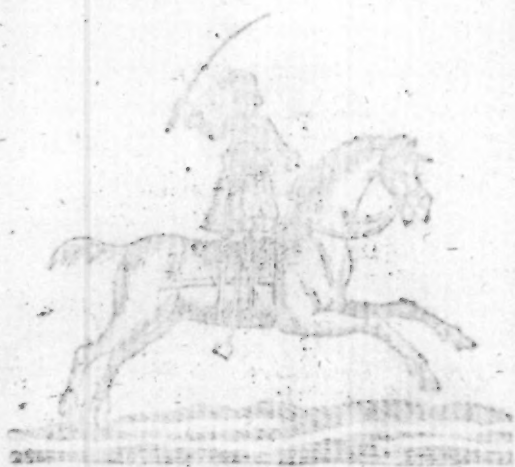








THE END.



THE END.

